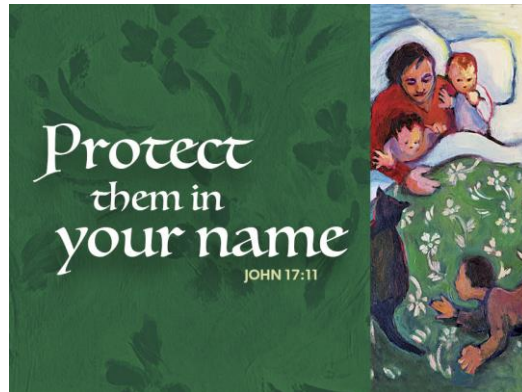


Grace Lutheran Church
1300 Kishwaukee Valley Road
Woodstock, IL 60098
www.gracewoodstock.org



May 12, 2024; 9:00 A.M.
Seventh Sunday of Easter



GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

OPENING MUSIC

"Christ Is the King!"

setting, Michael Burkhardt (One License)

Please stand as you are able.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the wellspring of grace,
our Easter and our joy.

Amen.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

Immersed in the promises of baptism,
let us give thanks for what God has done for us.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning
your voice thundered over the deep
and water became the essence of life.

Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers.

The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day.

Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea
into freedom's land.

In a desert pool the Ethiopian official
entered your boundless baptismal life.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people.

We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

Please stand as you are able.

OPENING HYMN

"Rise, O Sun of Righteousness"

ELW 657 (One License)

Please be seated.

WELCOME

Please stand as you are able.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE

"This Is the Feast"

ELW pg. 140

(verse 1- low voices, verse 2- high voices, verses 3, 4, & refrain- all)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Gracious and glorious God, you have chosen us as your own, and by the powerful name of Christ you protect us from evil. By your Spirit transform us and your beloved world, that we may find our joy in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

Please be seated.

FIRST READING:

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26, *Pew Bible, New Testament, pg. 118*

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM:

Psalm 1

The Psalms are found in the ELW, in the front section, beginning on page 339. We will read them responsively together.

SECOND READING:

1 John 5:9-13, *Pew Bible, New Testament, pg. 241*

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
 words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL

The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

John 17:6-19, *Pew Bible, New Testament, pg. 111*

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Son of God, Eternal Savior”

ELW 655 (Public Domain)

NICENE CREED

ELW pg. 104

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news. *A brief silence.*

You sanctify us in your truth; your word is truth. Send your church out into the world to spread your love and joy. Embolden all bishops, pastors, and deacons to be faithful ministers of your word and sacraments. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your creation groans under the strain of pollution. Preserve melting glaciers and dwindling forests. Bolster those who work for climate justice and help us all to be good and faithful stewards of your creation. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your people seek wisdom, understanding, and peace. Guide all those who govern and inspire them to work on behalf of the most vulnerable in our midst. Keep safe first responders, those serving in the military, and those whose duty it is to protect others. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your children need your loving care. Protect them from all harm. Comfort those in any affliction, especially those we now name aloud or in the silence of our hearts _____ . Support those who grieve and bring solace to those near death. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your Spirit lives within us here. Inspire the work of this congregation and unite us as one. Bless all the mothers in our midst, console those for whom this day is difficult, and gather us all under the care of your loving wings. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your saints dwell with you in light. Keep us ever thankful for those who have gone before us in faith, especially Orvis Goad (husband of Elaine Goad). Inspire us by their witness. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

After praying for the whole world, we receive and extend to one another the gift of Christ's peace. We invite you to share a physically distant sign of God's peace with one another—wave a greeting of peace to people around you, and/or text a greeting of peace to someone.

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Please be seated.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Risen One,
you call us to believe and bear fruit.
May the gifts that we offer here
be signs of your abiding love.
Form us to be your witnesses in the world,
through Jesus Christ, our true vine. **Amen.**

OFFERING

Thank you for your generous offerings and commitment to Grace's mission and ministry. You are invited to place your financial offerings in the offering plate. Additional ways to give include mailing your offering to the church office, or by giving online: by texting the amount you would like to give to 877-698-3604, through the Vanco Mobile App, or online at Grace's website (Use the QR code provided). You are also invited to call the church office to learn more about the automatic withdrawal Electronic Giving Program.



OFFERING ANTHEM

"Psalm 1"

John D. Horman (Augsburg Fortress)

Please stand as you are able.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, . . . and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

LORD'S PRAYER

ELW pg. 145, left column

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

All are welcome at the Lord's table.

The risen Christ is made known to us
in the breaking of the bread.

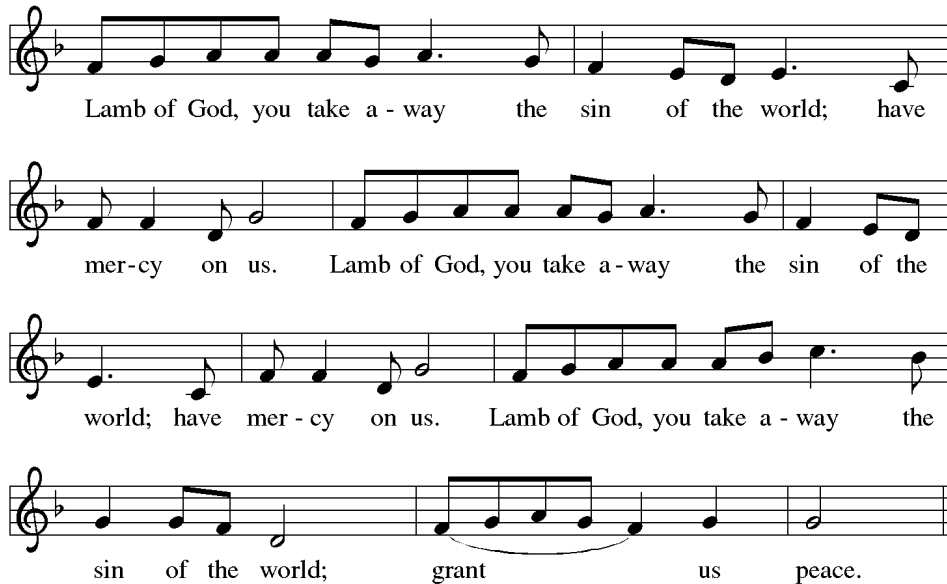
Come and eat at God's table.

Please be seated. The congregation will then commune, beginning with the front pews, you are invited to come forward to receive the bread and wine or juice. Extend your hands to receive a wafer from the pastor or communion assistant. Then please pick up one cup from the trays (red wine or white grape juice), and then place the empty cup in a tray on the front pew before returning to your seat. Gluten free elements are available upon request. If you would like the communion elements to be brought to you, please notify an usher.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"Lamb of God"

ELW pg. 135 (Augsburg Fortress)



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

"One Bread, One Body"

ELW 496 (One License)

Please stand as you are able.

COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The God of resurrection power,
the Christ of unending joy,
and the Spirit of Easter hope
✝ bless you now and always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

"Christ Is the King!"

ELW 662 (One License)

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

CLOSING MUSIC

"Son of God, Eternal Savior"

setting, Michael Burkhardt (One License)



Worship Team

A/V Team: Andrew Thomas

Communion Assistants: Michelle Anderson, Alan Beckman, Robin Gibbs,
Sandy Olson, Sally Sheahan

Acolyte: Wilson Robbins

Greeters: Howard Hoyt, Sally Sheahan

Reader: Adele Petersen

Ushers: Andy Nellessen, Tim Nellessen, Cindy Rowe

Children's Sermon: Jon Bergstrom

Altar Guild: Janette Hess, Cindy Meyer, Grace Nellessen, Kristy Nellessen

Musicians: Jan Burns, Terry Aavang, Cindy Meyer, Joyful Messengers

Lead Pastor: Pastor Amanda Bergstrom

Presence Light Sponsor:

In honor of our mothers, Fay & Betty; given by Bill & Nancy Kreznor.

Bulletin Sponsors:

To the glory of God; given by Borghild E. Stenoien.

Thank you for sharing time to hear God's word and pray together. A video recording of worship will be posted to Grace's website later in the day.



You are welcome to join Grace Lutheran Church's Facebook group for news & ministry opportunities. Peace be with you as you go forth to share God's grace.

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Walking Together



Northern Illinois Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

A Word from Bishop Stacie Fidler

The first question I asked people gathered for our Congregational Resourcing Event was this:

What's your favorite Bible story?

The answers came fast and furious, Hebrew Bible and New Testament. Good Samaritan. Woman at the Well. The resurrection. David and Goliath.

Now – tell me what that story has to do with your life. How does God's story of life and redemption and healing and reconciliation shape your life? Does that change the story – or how you think about it?

The arc of God's story with the beloved people of God's creation is long, but all along the way it is meant to shape us. That's why our ancestors recorded these stories in their minds and hearts and finally in writing. They wanted us to be shaped by them. They wanted us to learn from them. They wanted us to know deep within us how God's story never leaves us the same. God's story is meant to be transformative. It never leaves us the same.

That's why we are called as the people of God to be continually immersed in God's story. To open it in our lives and listen to how God is reaching out to us in this time and this place through the old, old story of love and life.

God's story, God's work through Jesus, is woven with your story. Your life is a story of redemption, time and again. Your life is a story of finding your authentic self, your home, your peace, in the heart of God's story. From the beginning of creation through the reconciling and healing work of Jesus and continually blowing through the Holy Spirit's nudging – God is always at work in you. On you. Among you.

Open God's Story in your life and listen. Open God's Story in your congregation – where is God's mission, Jesus' calling, leading you?

Synod Assembly 2024

The Thirty-Sixth Annual Northern Illinois Synod Assembly will be held on Friday, June 14th and Saturday, June 15th, 2024 at Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois. Every congregation will send voting members to gather under the theme of Open God's Story. We will be focusing on God's stories - both in scripture and in our lives - and how these stories change us. The Assembly will be joined by The Rev. Miguel Gomez-Acosta, the Senior Director for New Ministry Development and Evangelism at the Churchwide Office of the ELCA.

Outside of doing the business of the Synod, like passing the budget and electing people to various committees, we will have a Ministry Fair. This will be a time - with dessert - that is focused on celebrating ministry in and around our synod.


To celebrate the 50th Anniversary of ELCA World Hunger, the Social Ministry Committee encourages the congregations of the Northern Illinois Synod to have a food drive for your local food pantries during the time that an in-kind offering would have been collected for Synod Assembly. Our offering at our Festival Worship on Friday will be split between Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center and ELCA World Hunger, both celebrating 50 years of ministry.


You are invited to pray for your congregation's voting member as they join together in June.

Almighty God, shown fully to us in your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, we give you thanks that by your Holy Spirit you sustain the church. By the Spirit's power you call, gather, enlighten, and sanctify the whole church. Guide us into the ways that we can be your hands and feet and heart to bring healing, hope, and restoration and to cultivate life-giving relationships wherever possible, in order to find abundant life together. As the Holy Spirit continues to work among us and in us, we pray for the strengthening of our communities of faith, as we navigate new challenges and possibilities. Be with our synod staff and all pastors and leaders in congregations, and all who gather as your church everywhere. In Jesus name, we pray, Amen.



For more information
visit us at
www.nisynod.org

 @nisynod

 @nisynod

May 2024